

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1 – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) An engine compartment partition for reducing noise, the partition comprising:

one or more partition sections together shaped to horizontally divide the engine compartment above an engine,

wherein the one or more partition sections together with a closed hood of the engine compartment form an acoustically effective cavity.

17. (New) The partition of claim 16, wherein said one or more partition sections each comprise a carrier layer and a sound absorbent layer.

18. (New) The partition of claim 17, wherein the carrier layer comprises a compressed phenolic resinous nonwoven layer.

19. (New) The partition of claim 18, wherein the carrier layer further comprises a first water and oil repellant layer.

20. (New) The partition of claim 19, wherein the first water and oil repellent layer is a textile scrim or felt layer on a side of the partition facing the engine hood.
21. (New) The partition of claim 20, wherein the compressed phenolic resinous layer is a textile scrim or felt layer.
22. (New) The partition of claim 17, wherein the sound absorbent layer comprises a slightly compressed phenolic resinous layer.
23. (New) The partition of claim 22, wherein the sound absorbent layer comprises a second water and oil repellent layer.
24. (New) The partition of claim 23, wherein the second water and oil repellent layer is a textile scrim or felt layer on a side of the partition facing the engine compartment floor or the ground.
25. (New) The partition of claim 16, wherein two or more of the sections are joinable and mutually complementary.
26. (New) The partition of claim 16, wherein the partition comprises at least one acoustically effective aperture.

27. (New) A method of partitioning an engine compartment for reducing noise, the method comprising:

placing one or more partition sections above an engine in the engine compartment, wherein the placing step comprises:

horizontally dividing the engine compartment, and

forming at least one acoustically effective cavity between the one or more partition sections and a closed hood of the engine compartment.

28. (New) A method of partitioning an engine compartment for reducing noise, the method comprising:

placing one or more partition sections above an engine in the engine compartment, wherein the placing step comprises:

horizontally dividing an engine compartment, and

forming a plurality of acoustically effective cavities between the one or more partition sections and a closed hood of the engine compartment.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the cavities have differing volumes.